

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093714

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ORIGIN PA-04

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 355

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, CU

SUBJECT: MORE EDITORS NOW FAVOR CUBAN DETENTE

FOR MCCLOSKEY

1. SINCE PA'S JANUARY 23 REPORT, A FRESH WAVE OF EDITORIAL COMMENT ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAS ACCOMPANIED RELAXATION OF THE TRADE EMBARGO IN BEHALF OF AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES IN ARGENTINA AND THE VOTE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN FAVOR OF ENDING THE EMBARGO.

2. TODAY'S LIST OF 19 NEWSPAPERS URGING CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE AMONG THOSE COMMENTING FROM 71 PERCENT TO 79 PERCENT; AND IT INCLUDES SEVERAL PAPERS NOT LISTED IN JANUARY. THESE PAPERS REGARD US POLICY AS ANACHRONISTIC A LEFTOVER FROM THE COLD WAR, AND DETRIMENTAL TO US ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND TO US POSITION AS A HEMISPHERE LEADER. FOUR PAPERS SPECIFICALLY URGED ENDING THE EMBARGO.

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PAGE 02 STATE 093714

3. IN THIS ROUND OF COMMENT, ONLY THE SAN DIEGO UNION HAS BEEN NOTED AS OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGE IN US CUBAN POLICY. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL IS NOT OPPOSED TO CONSIDERING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CUBA, BUT IT FEELS THAT THE BURDEN OF NORMALIZATION STILL RESTS MORE WITH HAVANA THAN WITH

WASHINGTON. THREE OTHER PAPERS HAVE TAKEN NO CLEAR-CUT STAND: NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT, WATERTOWN N.Y. TIMES.

4. NO RECENT OPINION POLL IS AVAILABLE; BUT GRASS-ROOTS OPINION WAS BROUGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY DELEGATES TO THE APRIL 24 FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. THESE REPORTED THAT IN MOST OF THE LOCAL DISCUSSION GROUPS (REPRESENTING 50,000-60,000 PARTICIPANTS) ACROSS THE COUNTRY THE PREDOMINANT VIEW WAS ONE OF WILLINGNESS TO SEE THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO LIFTED AND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION EXTENDED. RUSH

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